

REMARKS

The Application presently includes claims 16-22 and 24-35. Claims 16, 17, 27, 28, and 39 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 18-22, 24-26, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass the application to allowance.

Claim Rejections under U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 16, as amended, contains the limitation “while during such forward motion becoming rearwardly tilted from its conventional upright seating position into a rearwardly tilted position of reduced exposure to injury of its occupant owing to at least the leading end of the path defining means extending upward along an adequate extent of curvature, wherein the extent of curvature is sufficiently great to remove the occupant out of the line of inward displacement of vehicle equipment.” In Bullerdieck, the path defining means does not extend upward along an adequate extent of curvature, as is evidence in Fig. 3. Instead, the driver is left too exposed to injury via the legs and knees impacting upon the steering column of the vehicle. Bullerdieck relies on the steering column being deformable. Thus, claim 16, and each of the dependent claims which contain the same limitation via their dependency, are distinguishable and patentable over Bullerdieck.

Conclusion

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and seeks early indication of the same. If the Examiner requires further information with respect to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at (847) 537-3537 for a telephonic interview.

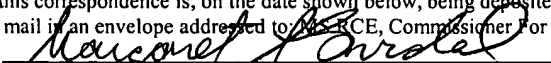
Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS-RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313 on August 19, 2004 by: 

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